

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CENTRALLY COMMISSIONED RESEARCH PROGRAMME

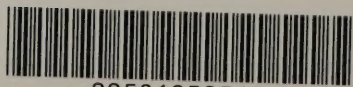
Commissions in 1994/95



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INTRODUCTION

A full report listing the policy related research funded by the Department of Health between April 1991 and March 1994 and discussing the future direction of the programme was published in January 1995, under the title *Centrally Commissioned Research Programme*.

The programme has subsequently been renamed the Policy Research Programme and this report provides an update covering the work funded between April 1994 and March 1995.

Copies of the full report are available from:

BAPS
Health Publications Unit
DSS Distribution Centre
Heywood Stores
Manchester Road
Heywood
Lancashire
OL10 2PZ

A cheque for £5.00 per copy should accompany your order, made payable to "Departments of Health and Social Security".

POLICY RESEARCH PROGRAMME

COMMISSIONS IN 1994/95

This brief commentary highlights a few examples of the new work which was funded in the period April 1994 and March 1995. A commentary on the whole programme is to be found in the full report *Department of Health Centrally Commissioned Programme* as detailed on page 5 of this report.

Workforce Issues

Since April 1994, work has been commissioned on four important workforce issues. The first of these is the evaluation of the costs and benefits of nurse prescribing in the eight demonstration sites, an initiative which was launched by Baroness Cumberlege in October 1994.

The second is the interface between GPs and other members of the primary health care team. This research examines the nature and pattern of GP activity in a small number of practices, and assesses the extent to which any of these activities could be carried out by other members of the team, and the acceptability of this to patients. It also forms a useful precursor to further work in primary health care which is likely to be commissioned as part of the Human Resources and Effectiveness research initiative.

Third is the changing role of community pharmacists within the new NHS structure, which should offer timely information for taking forward policy initiatives. Finally, a project is being undertaken to review the work of physicians' assistants and how this is organised. Their relationship to other health workers is also described along with the regulatory and accountability framework within which they practice.

Organisation of Health Services

Several recent commissions look at the way in which services are organised. An evaluation of two different emergency medical dispatch systems will test the ability of these systems to safely prioritise the most appropriate dispatch categories. An assessment of the service implications of the systems will also be made.

A study providing a descriptive review of local schemes established with DH funding which provide primary health care to homeless people will identify lessons for good practice for the future development of such provision.

An evaluation of surveillance methods for surgical wound infections, aims to compare the sensitivity, cost and feasibility of four methods of post-discharge surveillance, and to develop methods for calculating risk adjusted rates. This information should be valuable to both purchasers and providers of care.

Two other studies were started: one is an analysis of the various measures of waiting time for elective surgery in around 5,000 areas across England; the other is a study to determine the outcomes and costs of providing alternative intermediate level care in nurse managed hospital units for elderly dependent patients who would otherwise stay in acute medical wards.

Suicide

Suicide accounts for two of the mental health targets in the 'Health of the Nation'. These targets concern the reduction of suicide in the general population and in the severely mentally ill, a high risk group. Recent projects commissioned within the Programme reflect this commitment to suicide reduction. A study has been commissioned to investigate the risk factors for non-fatal deliberate self-harm in young Asian women attending Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments; there is a worryingly high rate of suicide and deliberate self harm in this group although the causes are unclear. Individuals who attend A&E departments with deliberate self-harm are at enormously increased risk of subsequent suicide, but much research concerning interventions to reduce this risk has led to inconclusive results. A recently commissioned large randomised control trial of a simple intervention has yielded encouraging results in pilot work. The 'Green Card', given to people admitted to hospital following deliberate self-harm, urges them to seek named psychiatric help should they consider self-harm in the future and provided details of how to get such help. A cost-effectiveness element is included in this study of a simple and generalizable intervention. A trial of a social work intervention for adolescents who have attempted suicide has also started.

Another project involves a national survey of hospital-based services for adolescents who deliberately harm themselves. The study will compare policy on training and services with what is actually available locally. Finally, as part of the mental health research initiative, work to develop a practical tool for the assessment of risk of suicide and violence in the severely mentally ill has been put out to tender.

Services for People with Mental Illness

Following the report of the Reed Committee (1992) criticising the existing provision of mental health care in prison and recommending the purchase of specialist psychiatric care from the NHS and the independent sector, research has been commissioned to evaluate the implementation of the purchase of mental health provision in the Durham cluster of prisons from Newcastle City Health NHS Trust. The study is for one year and will produce an interim report in August 1995 in order to inform the Home Office regarding future contract decisions.

Two predictive studies are also underway: the first aims to establish whether there is a significant hidden psychological morbidity in adolescents who present themselves to GPs with physical complaints; a second aims to provide a tool to estimate the needs of a population for medium security psychiatric beds.

Supervision registers have now been implemented throughout the country and are available for the care of all patients with severe mental illness. The decision making process employed by Mental Health Act Review Tribunals is to be investigated by researchers who will also examine the outcomes of patients discharged against the recommendations of the responsible medical officers. This work will begin in the autumn of 1995. A tendering exercise for work to evaluate the impact of the supervision registers is in its final stages.

Preparation for 'Variations in Health' and 'Health-Related Behaviour' Initiatives

Following the setting up of the Variations Sub-Group of the Chief Medical Officer's Health of the Nation Working Group several projects have been commissioned using existing large data sets to lay the basis for a major research initiative. In these projects new analyses of the 1958 Birth Cohort, the OPCS Longitudinal Survey and the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles are being conducted to investigate trends and associations in the health of the population.

A comprehensive review of the effectiveness of NHS-based interventions to tackle health variations has also been prepared for the Variations Sub-Group.

The Department's portfolio of research on health-related behaviour was extended by two important projects on adolescent smoking, which are intended to inform new approaches to prevention for this age group. The link between social/behavioural research and health promotion interventions forms the basis of a new research initiative, a substantial part of which will focus on the health risk behaviour of adolescents and young adults. Another example of applied social/behavioural research is a project which draws on research on the very high incidence of diabetes and coronary heart disease in people of South Asian origin to inform the development and testing of a dietary intervention in primary care.

Drug Misuse

Several recent research studies of illicit drug use and related services were commissioned to inform the Ministerial Review of Services for Drug Misusers. The first National Treatment Outcome Research Study will provide basic information on the effectiveness of treatment for the Task Force's considerations. Other studies specially commissioned for the Review will investigate drug misuse in pregnancy and services for pregnant drug misusers, the needs of stimulant misusers, and the leakage of prescription drugs onto the illicit market.

Health Service Interventions

Most research on health service interventions is carried out by the Medical Research Council or the NHS Research and Development Programme. However there is, from time to time, a need for the Policy Research Programme to support such work.

Amongst a group of studies on the effect of health interventions are a comparison of the long and medium-term outcomes from transcervical ablation with those from hysterectomy, and a long-term trial to determine whether maintaining near normal blood glucose improves the outlook for patients by reducing diabetic complications.

Two projects on joint prostheses research have started this year: a three-year study of the potential of a two-dimensional technique for measuring early loosening of joint prostheses and a two-year project to evaluate the results of total hip replacement performed in a single health region at five years following surgery.

Also commissioned were projects to estimate the incidence of adverse outcome in babies delivered in water and a review of the literature on laparoscopic cholecystectomy, with a view to considering the clinical and economic benefits in comparison with open cholecystectomy.

Air Pollution

Contributing to the early stages of the Air Pollution initiative (as detailed on page 7 of the full report) a number of projects were commissioned including one aiming to provide, for the first time, objective data on the pattern of outdoor UV exposure in school children. Also underway are: a study to investigate the prevalence of childhood asthma in Teeside in relation to proximity to sources of pollution; a project to address whether exposure to cadmium in any form can give rise to an increased risk of cancer; and another to develop techniques for characterising the composition of PM10 matter in air samples and in human lung tissue.

Medicines

Developing a programme of research aiming to ensure the best use of medicines, two studies have been commissioned: firstly, a survey of over 2000 households about unused medicines obtained by prescription; secondly, an investigation of the usage of products which were previously available on prescription only, but which are now available from pharmacies.

Child Care

Projects commissioned in this area continue themes already well represented in the Programme: children at risk; child abuse; adoption. Two research studies have been commissioned to explore the use of family support services to vulnerable families: one focuses on services for neglected children and their families, assessing the feasibility and effectiveness of early support for children in need because of suspected harm; the second aims to evaluate the provision and delivery of family support services to a broader group of older children from 7 -12 years and their immediate and extended families.

A child abuse study explores the pace of child abuse prosecutions to see whether recent management initiatives designed to speed the progress of cases through the courts have been successful and to identify good practice in the management of prosecutions.

The White Paper 'Adoption: The Future' lays out the Government's plans to amend adoption law in England and Wales. Two research projects have been commissioned since April 1994 to inform the preparation of the Act and the framing of accompanying guidance and regulations: firstly, a study of the judicial process in adoption, intended to gather baseline information to create a profile of practice and procedure under existing legislation which can be compared later with similar data under the new rules; secondly, a study of adoption support services from the perspective of a range of participants in the process with a view to identifying good practice.

Welsh Programmes

Two contracts for fixed-term programmes focusing on social services in Wales were renewed. The Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities, Applied Research Unit in Cardiff focuses on environmental structures and processes, and their effect on the experience, development, quality of life and role of people with learning disabilities at home, in the workplace and in the community.

The Centre for Social Policy Research and Development in Bangor has three main strands of research: elderly people (social ageing process, the nature of social support and dementia); people with a learning disability (independent lifestyles and carer's coping mechanisms); and community care, with studies linked to different aspects of the implementation of the NHS and Community Care Act, 1990.

Finance

Expenditure on the Programme, including work funded collaboratively through the Medical Research Council, amounted to £24.4m (estimate) in 1994/95.

In this annex total costs of projects are given. For programmes, funding is given for the year of this report. An asterisk denotes a project based within a Research Unit or Programme, but which receives separate funding.

HEALTH STATUS

University of London

Institute of Child Health

Dr C Power
Further Analysis of the 1958
Birth Cohort

To investigate stability and
change in health status and
health-related behaviour
relating to psychological
health, smoking and
accidents. Influences of
different predictors will be
identified, as well as
associated co-morbidity and
use of health services.

Mar 1995 - Feb 1998
£255,881

**London School of Hygiene
and Tropical Medicine**

**Department of
Epidemiology & Population
Sciences**

Dr G Lewis
OPCS Longitudinal Study:
Suicide and Socio-
Demographic Factors; Health
Variation in the Elderly

To study the socio-
demographic factors related
to institutional care in the
elderly to question whether
the socioeconomic variation
in health seen in the under
65s continues into older life.
The analysis for suicide will
concentrate on socio-
economic status, family
composition and living alone
as possible risk factors.

July 1994 - Dec 1995
£52,529

University of York

**Centre for Reviews &
Dissemination**

Mr T Sheldon
Variations in Health: Review

An overview of the evidence
of the effectiveness of
interventions which the NHS
can carry out alone or in
partnership with other
agencies to reduce variations
in health.

Sept 1994 - Feb 1995
£43,702

**World Health
Organisation**

R Jamieson
UN Principles for the
Protection of the Mentally Ill

To establish an international
legal framework, applicable
in any country, for applying
United Nations principles for
the protection of the mentally
ill.

June 1994 - Dec 1994
£10,000

LIFESTYLE

**Manchester
Metropolitan University**

Dr H Klee
Health Care Delivery to
Drug-Using Pregnant Women

This research will contribute
to policy issues identifying
the impediments to effective
service delivery by
considering the perspectives
of the women themselves and
from the health professionals
responsible for their care.

Jan 1995 - Dec 1995
£36,339

Royal Free Hospital

Department of Psychiatry

Dr R King and Dr R Petchey
(at the Queen's Medical
Centre, Nottingham)
The Role of GPs in
Community Care of People
with AIDS and HIV Infection

The research aims to identify
ways of encouraging the full
participation of the general
practice care team in the care
of people with HIV infection
and their families, in line
with the thrust of community
care arrangements.

Apr 1994 - Mar 1996
£99,022

University of London

**Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine**

**Centre for Biological and
Medical Systems**

Professor C G Caro
Nicotine: Effects on
Haemodynamics

Aims to use magnetic
resonance imaging as a non-
invasive method of measuring
blood flow dynamics in the
arteries of smokers and non-
smokers; and hence to study
the role of nicotine in
atherosclerosis.

Oct 1994 - Sept 1997
£253,104

Institute of Education

Dr J Holland and Professor A
Oakley
Protective Factors in
Adolescent Smoking

To develop hypotheses about
the social/behavioural
processes involved in
smoking cessation and
particularly in protecting high
risk teenagers from taking up
smoking.

Sept 1994 - Mar 1996
£134,116

Institute of Psychiatry

National Addiction Centre

Dr M Farrell
Needs Assessment for
Cocaine and Amphetamine
Users

Aims to develop a structured
approach to cocaine and
amphetamine needs
assessment and to identify the
unmet needs and the barriers
to accessing current health
and social care.

Mar 1995 - Feb 1997
£97,407

Dr M Gossop
National Treatment Outcome
Research Study

To investigate four types of
treatment for drug problems
most commonly used in
England, providing data on
the extent of change
occurring in a range of
problem areas among drug
users during treatment and
subsequent to treatment.

Oct 1994 - Nov 1996
£495,879

**London School of Hygiene
and Tropical Medicine**

Dr P McKeigue
Development and Validation
of a Weight-Losing Dietary
Intervention to Reduce the
Risk of Diabetes and
Coronary Heart Disease in
South Asians

The objective of this research
is to develop a weight-losing
package which can be used in
health promotion programmes
based in primary care.

July 1994 - Dec 1996
£176,987

Ms K Wellings and Mrs J Wadsworth
Further Analysis of Data from the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles

This further analysis is to inform policy on continuing HIV risk behaviour and prevention of teenage conceptions.

Aug 1994 - Jan 1996
£62,432

St George's Hospital Medical School

Professor H Ghodse
Co-ordination of European Collaborating Centres in Addiction Studies

To assist the debate on the treatment of opiate addicts and in particular the role played by methadone substitution, this study reviews the policies and practices of methadone substitution treatment and service delivery across the European Union.

Jan 1995 - Dec 1995
£56,274

Dr R West
The Use of a "Buddy" System in Smoking Interventions in Primary Care

To examine the impact of a "buddy" system in primary care.

Sept 1994 - Aug 1996
£17,526

University of Sussex

Dr B Lloyd & Dr K Lucas
Quantitative Behavioural Study: Why do Adolescent Girls Smoke?

To examine a range of social and behavioural processes associated with the identities of adolescent girls which may result in the higher reported incidence of smoking in 13 to 15 year old girls.

Aug 1994 - Jan 1996
£138,259

University of Wales

Social Research Unit

Dr M Bloor
Estimation of the Prevalence of Injection Drug Use in Wales

The study aims to estimate the prevalence of injecting drug use; provide further prevalence estimates of drug injector subpopulations by drug, age, gender and locality; and establish a method for repeated prevalence estimations to assess trends in injecting drug use.

Feb 1995 - Jan 1997
£107,235

University of Warwick

Department of Applied Social Studies

Professor H Graham
Evaluation of a Smoking Cessation Pack for Health Care Professionals Working with Young Mothers

To evaluate the use of a pack aimed at GPs, health visitors, community and practice nurses and midwives, in different settings and review its effectiveness in terms of outcome.

Oct 1994 - Sept 1995
£39,000

University of York

Centre for Health Economics

Mrs C Godfrey
Assessing Needs for Alcohol Services

To assess policy development and new research since the introduction of Community Care, and how they impact on assessing population needs for alcohol services.

Sept 1994
£8,068

PREVENTION AND PROMOTION

Dr P Brown

Osteoporosis: Stock Take and Future Research Requirements

In order to provide an input to the discussions of an Advisory Group on Osteoporosis, this commission was for a short study to take stock of research currently being undertaken, recently completed, or being proposed and to make recommendations about further research requirements.

May 1994 - June 1994
£486

University of London

Institute of Psychiatry

Dr D Bhugra
An investigation of the Determinants of Deliberate Self-Harm in British Asians

This work aims to determine possible causes of the high rates of deliberate self-harm and suicide in young Asian people.

July 1994 - Sept 1995
£54,262

United Medical & Dental School of Guy's and St. Thomas'

Psychology & Genetics Research

Dr Marteau
Psychological and Social Implications of Genetic Screening: Literature Review

A systematic review of published research is being undertaken to inform the planning and evaluation of proposed services providing genetic predictive testing for familial cancers and other inherited conditions.

Jan 1995 - Aug 1995
£33,778

University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Department of Child Health

Professor S Jarvis
Childhood Injury Prevention and Promotion of Safety

This work will contribute to achievement of the Health of the Nation target for preventing child accidents by identifying and evaluating good practice which can be adopted by other centres. The programme aims to develop a scientific basis of child injury prevention and provide a centre of excellence in academic and applied research in the field.

May 1994 - Oct 1997
£140,043

**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH**

Northern RHA

**Regional Medical Physics
Department. Dryburn
Hospital, Durham**

Dr B Diffey
Outdoor UV Exposure of
School Children

Aims to provide for the first
time objective data on the
pattern of outdoor UV
exposure in a group of school
children.

July 1994 - Sept 1994
£7,059

**Public Health
Laboratory Service**

**Centre for Applied
Microbiology & Research**

Mr M Hudson
Characterisation of the Role
of Fimbriae and Flagella in
the Pathogenesis of
Salmonella Enteritides
infection

The research aims to identify
the host and environmental
factors associated with the
expression and function of
fimbriae and flagella by
salmonella enteritides, and
relate these factors to the
establishment and persistence
of salmonella enteritides
infection.

Jan 1995 - Dec 1997
£375,790

University of London

**Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine**

Professor G Kazantzis
A Mortality Study of
Cadmium Exposed Workers
with Particular Reference to
Lung and Prostatic Cancer

This study seeks to address
whether exposure to cadmium
in any form can give rise to
an increased risk of cancer in
humans and to give
quantitative measures of that
risk for both dust and fume
exposure.

Oct 1994 - Sept 1995
£34,440

University of Teeside

**School of Computing and
Mathematics**

Dr J Longstaff
Middlesborough Childhood
Asthma Study

The main aim is to investigate
the prevalence of childhood
asthma in Teeside in relation
to proximity to sources of
pollution such as roads and
industry.

May 1994 - Apr 1995
£12,470

University of Wales

College of Cardiff

Professor F Pooley
Characterisation of Fine
Particulate Matter (PM10) in
Airborne Samples and Tissues

The study aims to develop
techniques for characterising
the composition quantitatively
of PM10 matter first in air
samples and then human lung
tissues. This work will then
enable pathological studies of
subjects who had come to
post mortem from different
geographical areas to be
correlated with the presence
of fine particulate matter in
the lung tissues.

Oct 1994 - Oct 1995
£18,644

**SOCIAL CARE
ADULTS**

University of Bristol

Department of Social Work

Professor P Parsloe
Involving Users in Assessing
Social Work Students: A Pilot
Study

The study aims to explore the
possibility of involving users
and carers in the assessment
of direct practice by social
work students, and to
compare their approach and
the conclusions they reach
with those of social work
teachers.

Feb 1995 - Jan 1997
£166,845

University of London

**Imperial College of Science
Technology and Medicine**

Department of Computing

Mr J Murphy
Evaluation and Review of
Handynet

This project undertook a
technical evaluation of
Handynet, an EU database of
disability aids and appliances

May 1994 - June 1994
£14,382

University of Wales

**University College of North
Wales (Bangor)**

**Centre for Social Policy
Research and Development**

Director : Dr G Grant

• Transitions in Community
Care: Changing Assessment
Practices - the primary focus
of the new work will be upon
inter-disciplinary working as
it relates to assessment after
the NHS and Community
Care Act.

• A Comparison of Care
Management Models for
Three Client Groups - to
evaluate from the point of
view of three groups of
service users (those who are
elderly, have a physical
disability or a learning
disability), their informal
carers and service providers
the effectiveness of different
care management models in
meeting service user needs; to
identify good practice; to
highlight the policy
implications of the findings;
and to disseminate the
findings to both practitioners
and policy makers.

• Supporting Coping
Strategies in Families with
Relatives who have a
Learning Disability - to assess
the degree to which national
and local policy, and
front-line worker practice,
helps to empower and
promote positive coping
strategies among families
during important periods of
life transition.

• Independent Lifestyles and
Everyday Lives - to examine
how meaningful community
contacts and supportive
networks are developed and
maintained.

• Dementia Studies - this
large-scale population-based
survey of people aged 65 and
over is to estimate the
incidence of dementia and to
study factors associated with
cognitive decline in old age.

• Multidisciplinary
Community Services for
Elderly Mentally Ill People -
concerned with four main
issues: the planning and
strategic intent of authorities
with responsibility for the
health and social care of
elderly people who are
mentally ill; the structure,
range and organisation of
services for the care of
elderly people who are
mentally ill and their carers;
the assessment of professional
roles and inter-professional
liaison; the experience of
elderly mentally ill people
and their carers of the
services provided.

- Longitudinal Study of Ageing - the longitudinal study of ageing has been going on since 1979, with measurement points at four yearly intervals in 1983, 1987 and 1992. A further trace of survivors is planned in 1995, concentrating upon successful ageing, substitutability in sources of informal help, ageing and support network variation, childlessness, friendship processes in late life, post-retirement moving, incomes and pensions, and comparisons before and after the implementation of the community care reforms.

Programme Expenditure
1994/5 £191,726

Assessment and Care
Management in Wales: A
Longitudinal Survey Study*

This study is surveying the new assessment and care management arrangements on an all-Wales basis with a view to establish the strengths and weaknesses of the emergent practice models; making the results available to stakeholder groups; and assessing and accounting for adaptations to assessment and care management practice by means of a follow-up survey prior to local government reorganisation in 1996.

June 1994 - May 1997
£170,131

College of Cardiff

College of Medicine

The Welsh Centre for
Learning Disabilities -
Applied Research Unit

Director: Professor D Felce

- Dissemination and Applied Products Arising from the Current Research Programme - to ensure that the research findings and the service related products derived from the 1989-94 programme are fully disseminated.

- The Implementation of the All Wales Strategy - to assess the service development achieved by the end of the first ten years of the All Wales Strategy; mapping service coverage by service category by county, and describing how counties responded to the demands and subsequent community care policy in their planning and consultation practices.

- Staff Activity in Supported Ordinary Housing Services - to explore the determinants of staff activity, considering such factors as staff demographics; the formal service culture; the formal and informal culture of the workplace.

- Family Life: Meeting Transitional Points - a study of the intersection of adolescence and the midlife in families with a child with learning disabilities, to examine the influences on parents as they take decisions for their child and for themselves as the child approaches adult age.

- Alternative Day Services for Adults: Promoting Access to Work and Real Activities in the Community - one study will repeat earlier monitoring of the achievement of employment for people with learning disabilities: a second focus will be on the achievement of efficiency and effectiveness in supported employment.

Programme Expenditure
1994/5 £269,070

Challenging Behaviour:
Residential Situations, Service
Processes, Costs and
Outcomes*

Aims to investigate the effect of differently designed services for people with severe learning disabilities and the most severely challenging behaviour.

Sept 1994 - Aug 1997
£183,688

SOCIAL CARE CHILDREN

Ms J Plotnikoff

The Pace of Child Abuse
Prosecutions

The project is looking at the pace of child abuse prosecutions in up to four Crown Prosecution Service areas. The aim is to compare disposition times in 100 cases committed or transferred to the Crown Court after June 1993 with criminal cases, and describe specific case management initiatives designed to expedite progress and identify good practice in the management of prosecutions.

Apr 1994 - June 1995
£29,375

University of Bristol

Socio-legal Centre

Mrs E Malmos
A Study of the Judicial
Process in Adoption

The study intends to gather base-line information from a sample of 200 existing adoption court records. From these data to create a profile of practice and procedure under existing legislation which could be compared later to similar data based on changed practice and procedure under new legislation arising from the White Paper 'Adoption: The Future, 1993'

May 1994 - Apr 1996
£151,900

University of East Anglia

Social Work Development
Unit

Mrs J Gibbons
Evaluation Research into
Services for Neglected
Children and Their Families

The study is assessing the feasibility and effectiveness of early family support for children in need because of suspected harm: describe assessments and family support plans; evaluate their implementation; cost components of service; survey family support resources.

Apr 1994 - Mar 1997
£311,069

University of Leeds

Child Care Research and
Development Unit

Mr M Stein
Running Away from
Substitute Care and
Accommodation

The main aims are: to investigate patterns of running away from substitute care and accommodation; and to investigate qualitatively the "running away careers" of "looked after" young people.

Dec 1994 - Nov 1997
£276,642

University of Leicester

School of Social Work

Professor J Aldgate
A Study of the
Implementation of Policy and
Practice for Children in Need
with Special Reference to
Services for 7 to 12 Year
Olds.

The overall aim is to monitor and evaluate the provision and delivery of family support services by social services departments and others to a group of children in need and to their immediate and extended families.

Oct 1994 - June 1997
£216,989

University of Manchester

Department of Psychiatry

Professor C Harrington
A Trial of a Social Work
Intervention for Adolescents
who have Attempted Suicide

Aims to evaluate a social
work intervention to reduce
the risk of subsequent
deliberate self harm in
adolescents admitted to
hospital for that reason, and
thereby reduce their risk of
suicide.

July 1994 - Feb 1997
£258,997

HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Central Manchester Healthcare Trust

Manchester Royal Infirmary

Dr E Van Ross
Population Based Studies on
Diabetic Patients

Aims to define achievable
targets for the improved care
of diabetic patients at risk of
foot ulceration and limb
amputation.

Apr 1994 - Mar 1996
£70,570

Office of Population Census and Surveys

Ms J Dobbs
Omnibus Survey: Unused
Prescription Medicines in
Households

Using the OPCS survey, 2082
households were surveyed for
their presence of medicines
obtained by prescription and
which are unused in order to
try to understand better the
phenomenon of waste in
medicines which are
prescribed.

June 1994 - Sept 1994
£45,300

The Royal College of Surgeons

Surgical Audit Unit

Mr H Devlin
Laparoscopic
Cholecystectomy : Review

To undertake a critical review
of literature on laparoscopic
cholecystectomy, with a view
to considering the
uncertainties relating to the
clinical and economic benefits
compared with open
cholecystectomy.

Sept 1994 - Mar 1995
£11,442

Royal Postgraduate Medical School

Hammersmith Hospital

Mr P Abel
Development and Clinical
Evaluation of Transrectal
Ultrasound Devices for
Thermotherapy of Benign
Prostatic Hyperplasia

Aims to develop and
clinically evaluate an
ultrasound device for heating
the entire prostate as an
alternative treatment for
lower urinary tract
obstruction.

July 1994 - May 1997
£97,038

University of Bristol

Professor Morgan
Randomised Controlled Trial
of an Intervention to Reduce
Rates of Deliberate Self-Harm
in Attenders at Accident and
Emergency Clinics: An
Extension to the Green Card
Study

Aims to evaluate the
efficiency and cost
effectiveness of the "Green
Card" in preventing
subsequent deliberate self
harm.

July 1994 - Nov 1997
£171,766

University of Cambridge

Institute of Public Health

Dr C Todd
Developing Measurable
Targets for the Quality of
Care of Hip Fracture Patients

Aims to define achievable
targets for the improved care
of patients with hip fractures.

Apr 1994 - Dec 1995
£51,399

University of Leicester

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Professor P Gregg
Joint Prostheses Research:
Five Year Outcomes from a
Regional Register

Aims to evaluate the objective
and subjective results of total
hip replacement performed in
a single health region at five
years following surgery.

Oct 1994 - Sept 1996
£131,727

University of Liverpool

Professor M Pearson
The Development of
Methodologies to Identify
Urinary Incontinence and Set
Targets for Health Gain

Aims to define achievable
targets for the improved care
of patients with urinary
incontinence.

Apr 1994 - Sept 1995
£99,819

University of London

Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine,
and St. Mary's Hospital
Medical School

Professor M Garralda
Detection of Psychiatric
Disorder Amongst
Adolescents by GPs

Aims to establish whether, as
is well known to occur in
adults, there is significant
hidden or unrecognised
psychological morbidity in
adolescents who present
themselves to GPs with
physical complaints.

Dec 1994 - Aug 1996
£76,430

Institute of Child Health

Dr R Gilbert
Adverse Neonatal Outcomes
of Delivery of Labour in
Water

Aims to estimate the incidence of adverse outcome in babies delivered in water and identify babies who are admitted to special care, or die, following labour in water; to examine whether there is evidence that the use of water during labour is associated with adverse outcome.

May 1994 - Nov 1995
£37,728

London Hospital Medical College

Mr M A Freeman
Joint Prostheses Research:
Two-Dimensional Technique
for Early Detection of
Loosening

Aims to explore the potential of a simple two-dimensional technique for measuring early loosening of joint prostheses.

June 1994 - May 1997
£105,366

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Health Promotion Sciences Unit

Professor K McPherson
A Prospective Cohort Study to Evaluate the Long and Medium-Term Outcomes of Transcervical Ablation of the Endometrium

Aims to compare the long and medium-term outcomes from transcervical endometrium ablation with those from hysterectomy, used as treatments for dysfunctional uterine bleeding.

July 1994 - July 1998
£634,960

University of Oxford

Diabetes Research Laboratories, Radcliffe Infirmary

Dr Turner
UK Prospective Diabetes Study: Does Improved Control Reduce Diabetic Complications?

This long-term trial is designed to determine whether maintaining near-normal blood glucose control will improve the outlook for patients by reducing diabetic complications. The study is also supported by the MRC and Bayer plc.

Apr 1994 - Mar 1998
£800,000

University of Sheffield

Medical Research Unit

Dr G James
Setting Measurable Targets: Achieving Reductions in Pressure Sores

Aims to define achievable targets for the improved care and reduction of pressure sores

Apr 1994 - Mar 1996
£90,051

HEALTH ORGANIZATION

King's Fund Institute

Mr A Harrison
Community Health Services Initiative: Scoping Exercise

To outline the scope of community health services

Sept 1994
£4,406

North Thames Region

East London and the City HA, Hackney Hospital

Dr J Coid
Population Based Assessment of Needs for Medium Secure Psychiatric Beds

Aims to provide a predictive tool, at the district HA level, of the medium security psychiatric bed needs of a population.

Aug 1994 - July 1996
£169,471

Practices Made Perfect

Ms P Oakley
Projected Changes in Primary Health Care Provision and Skill Mix

The report sets the context to projected changes in primary health care provision and skill mix by outlining the factors driving the need for a more highly and multi-skilled workforce, and setting out risk management and implementation issues.

Aug 1994 - Nov 1994
£9,107

Public Health Laboratory Service

Miss L Taylor
Comparisons of Hospital Surgical Wound Infection Rates

The study seeks to deal with the two main technical difficulties that need to be resolved in developing surgical wound infections as an indicator: identification of infections that occur after discharge; and weighting factors for the sickness of the patient and type of operation.

Mar 1995- Mar 1997
£249,503

University of Durham

Institute of Health Studies

Ms D Barnes
Health Care Services for Prisoners in the Durham Cluster

To describe and evaluate a innovative approach to purchasing routine NHS mental health care for prisoners in the Durham cluster of gaols.

Oct 1994 - Dec 1995
£46,729

University of Liverpool

Department of Nursing

Professor K Luker
An Evaluation of Nurse Prescribing

The study is to evaluate the impact of initial prescribing patterns by qualified community nurses or appropriately qualified practice nurses.

Apr 1994 - Mar 1996
£295,893

University of London

Institute of Psychiatry

Dr A Maden
Ethnic Origin and Long-Term
Outcome of Admissions to a
Regional Secure Unit

Aims to assess the outcome
of patients discharged from
regional secure psychiatric
units and to investigate ethnic
differences in the use and
effect of these facilities.

Nov 1994 - Mar 1996
£148,486

King's College

Professor Wilson-Barnett
Evaluation of Nursing-Led
Intermediate Care Units for
Elderly People

The study aims to determine
the outcomes and costs of
reducing the length of stay of
elderly dependent patients in
acute medical wards by
providing alternative
intermediate level care in a
nurse-managed hospital unit.

Jan 1995 - June 1997
£150,000

School of Pharmacy

Dr F Smith
Reclassification of Drugs
from Prescription-Only to
Pharmacy Medicine Status:
Consumers Perspectives

Aims to investigate the use by
consumers of the products
that have been reclassified
from prescription-only to
pharmacy medicine status,
and how the changes in legal
classification may affect the
health actions of consumers.

Jan 1995 - Aug 1996
£53,867

**University College Medical
School**

Dr S Iliffe
Hospital at Home Schemes:
Consultancy

A three month consultancy
was undertaken to begin
development of an evaluation
approach to Hospital at Home
schemes. The paper outlines
the key issues in development
and evaluation of the schemes
and suggests a preliminary
methodological framework
for developing trials.

July 1994 - Oct 1994
£8,374

**University of
Nottingham**

School of Social Studies

Professor R Dingwall
Physicians' Assistants:
Literature Review

The review describes what
physicians' assistants do, how
their work is organised, the
nature of their relationship to
the medical profession and
other health workers, and the
framework of regulation and
accountability within which
they practice.

Oct 1994 - Jan 1995
£17,750

**University of
Portsmouth**

**Social Services Research &
Information Unit**

Dr C Lupton
The Changing Role of the
Community Pharmacist in the
New NHS Structure

Because of the changing role
of the community pharmacist,
research in this area has the
potential to generate timely
information which would be
of significant value in taking
forward current policy
initiatives.

Sept 1994 - Aug 1996
£60,928

University of Sheffield

Medical Care Research Unit

Mr J Nicholl
Evaluation of Prioritised
Dispatch for Ambulance
Services

The aim of the project is to
evaluate two emergency
medical dispatch systems, the
Medical Priority Dispatch
System and the Criteria Based
Dispatch System, to test the
ability of these systems to
safely prioritise the most
appropriate dispatch
categories.

Feb 1995 - Dec 1995
£59,909

University of York

**Centre for Health
Economics**

Dr R Carr-Hill
The Interface Between
General Practitioners and
Other Members of the
Primary Health Care Team*

This study is examining the
constraints on and the
opportunities for spreading
the workload of GPs more
effectively and efficiently
among members of the
Primary Health Care Team.

Sept 1994 - Feb 1996
£178,519

Professor A Maynard
Controlling Pharmaceutical
Expenditure: Lessons from
International Experience*

Aims to create a taxonomy of
strategies employed
internationally to control
pharmaceutical expenditure;
critically review available
published and unpublished
analyses of the cost
effectiveness of these
strategies; and develop a
prioritised research
programme to evaluate
further these policies.

Dec 1994 - May 1995
£15,898

Dr Smith
Modelling Waiting Times for
Elective Surgery*

The study comprises an
analysis of various measures
of waiting time for elective
surgery in 4,985 small areas
covering the whole of
England.

Oct 1994 - Mar 1995
£18,624

Dr S Williams

Evaluation of Primary Care
Services for the Homeless

The study aims to provide a
descriptive review of the
various local schemes
established with DH funding
to provide primary health
care to homeless people, and
to identify lessons for good
practice for future
development of such
schemes.

Jan 1995 - June 1996
£9,000

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